
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of January 26, 2014

This series is aimed to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness, prayer and outreach. "The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community." (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Words for Disciples

When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say in your defense, because you will be given the right words at the right time. For it won't be you doing the talking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:19-20

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I'm thankful that you desire to speak through me. Help me learn to depend completely on you and to trust you for the right words at the right time. Whenever I am in a tight spot, I know that you are especially with me then, giving me just the right words to say to bring your life, light, and hope to people surrounded by darkness. I will give you all the glory because you are the only One who can do this. Thank you for your wisdom and timing, which are always perfect.

Notable Quote

In prayer you align yourself to the purposes and power of God and he is able to do things through you he couldn't do otherwise.

E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973)

Reflection

Some of the traveling instructions that Jesus gave to his twelve disciples—such as don't take any money with you, and don't carry a bag or even an extra coat (Matt. 10:9-10)—may sound strange to our modern ears. But embedded in Christ's words are important principles and, most important, a call for a deeper level of trust. In verse 19 Jesus carries that need to trust God even into the courtroom, advising his followers not to worry about relying on their own natural abilities to devise a clever defense, because God would give them the right words at the right time. Perhaps it is not a court trial you face but a job situation, a misunderstanding with a friend, or a problem with your teen. This chapter assures you of something wonderful: that God himself will give you the inspiration as you rely on him to do so. As you stay tuned-in to him and activity trust him and wait for his prompting, it won't be you doing the talking—it will be the Spirit of your Father. Rest today in the truth that the Lord will bring his words to your mind and this his words always accomplish the purposes for which they are sent.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance. [The first two items are from this week's Pause to Pray]
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Ralph Gustafson's message*, "Redeemed for a Promise." Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week.
- Continue to pray for our "Stepping Out in Faith" initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Pray for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord's direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area—and for the contact Pastor Dave had with one potential planter in the area. In the meantime, renew your dedication to meet Bill France's challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! Pray persistently that God will bring a great harvest in 2014!

*A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.